

The U-2 Incident of 1 May 1960

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The following additional information from the informant of [redacted] of 30 November 1960 expands that report. Parts underlined in red appeared in the earlier report.

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1. Two V-75 surface-to-air missile battalions in the Sverdlovsk area, on alert because of the holiday, opened fire and launched 14 missiles at the U-2 which flew overhead on 1 May 1960. No direct hits were made.

2. The U-2, which was already being followed by a MIG-19, did not fly directly over the position of the zone of fire of either V-75 battalion. Nevertheless, it was within the radius of explosion of one of the V-75 missiles.¹ As a result of this explosion, the U-2's tail and wing assembly were slightly damaged and the pilot, Powers, sustained a concussion.² While parachuting down, Powers blacked out several times. He was unconscious when he landed and when everything on him was seized.

Powers
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3. Powers was brought to Moscow by plane, where he was met by KGB Chief Shelepin and an interpreter. They took him to Dzerzhinskiy Square, where he was fed and given medical treatment for his concussion.

4. There was dissatisfaction in military circles that Powers was not turned over to the General Staff, since his flight was considered a military intrusion and his plane had been downed by a military unit. The GRU did not, however, become involved in the case.

5. Source expressed the opinion in mid-1961 that Powers would never be released except in an exchange. He suggested that an exchange with GRU officer Igor Melekh might have been possible. [Note: Melekh left the U. S. on 8 April 1961, prior to source's comment.]

6. On 5 May 1960, Khrushchev ordered a suspension of agent operations to avoid possible political ramifications. [Note: duration unknown.]

1. Source Comment: Powers would have escaped if he had flown one or one and a half kilometers to the right of his flight path, not to the left.
2. Source Comment: The broken parts of the plane were not displayed at the Moscow exhibition.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

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